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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Denktas: We came to New York to open a new chapter -  
Hurriyet  
Hope for compromise at historic Cyprus summit - Sabah  
Bargaining in New York - Milliyet  
Annan signals readiness to change his Cyprus plan - Turkiye  
Simitis: Turkey's path to EU is through Green Line in Cyprus  
- Milliyet  
Another suicide attack in Iraq: 55 dead - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Cyprus' destiny on the negotiation table - Radikal  
Erdogan warns Denktas to abide by Annan plan - Radikal  
Ankara pressures Denktas to stay at the table - Cumhuriyet  
Annan boosts hope on eve of the longest night in New York -  
Zaman  
Tough Cyprus bargaining in New York - Yeni Safak  
First Cyprus round positive - Yeni Safak  
PUK: Turkish troops should make 'friendly exit' from Iraq -  
Cumhuriyet  
French uphold secularism, ban headscarf in schools -  
Cumhuriyet  
AKP still popular, CHP in critical condition - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Cyprus: Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders remained at the  
negotiating table after their first meeting with UN  
Secretary General Annan in New York on Tuesday. `Cyprus

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peace negotiations have started,' TRNC `Foreign Minister'  
Serdar Denktas announced. `We are pleased that the meetings  
were beneficial, and the talks will continue next week  
either in New York, Nicosia or a European city,' Denktas  
added. He voiced hope that the positive atmosphere in the  
initial talks will continue. Denktas and Papadopoulos  
presented their conditions to Annan, Turkish papers report.  
Dailies believe the positive atmosphere was due to heavy  
pressure exerted by Ankara and Athens on the Cypriot  
leaders. Facing significant pressure from Ankara and the  
US, Denktas opted against presenting his letter of  
conditions to Annan, "Sabah" reports. The Greek Cypriots  
were also uncomfortable with the Annan conditions, but they  
preferred to pursue a wait-and-see policy, according to  
"Radikal." Denktas' withdrawal from negotiations was `out  
of the question,' Prime Minister Erdogan said on Tuesday on  
his way back from South Korea. Dailies highlight Greek  
Prime Minister Simitis' comment that the `wounds of the 1974  
Turkish intervention on the island must be healed,' and that  
Greek and Turkish Cypriots could `live together for a  
European vision.' Papers also underline Annan's flexible  
message to the parties, indicating that changes to the UN  
plan are possible if a compromise is reached between the  
Cypriot leaders.

PUK representative in Ankara: Visiting Ankara after  
meetings in Washington and London, PUK official Bahram Salih  
discussed with his Turks counterparts the political  
reconstruction of Iraq. In a meeting with Ankara's special  
Iraq envoy, Ambassador Osman Koruturk, Salih said he fully  
supports Iraq's territorial integrity and a fair

representation of all ethnic groups in the country. `Kirkuk is part of Iraqi Kurdistan,' Salih stressed, `and the people of Kirkuk want to see a democratic solution to their problems.' In a TV interview late Tuesday, Salih asserted that the Kurds have no intention to expel Turkish troops from Iraq by force. Salih also expressed determination to eliminate any threat coming from inside Iraq toward its neighbors, including the PKK/KADEK. "Radikal" believes Salih was trying to ease Ankara's concerns over a prospective federal structure in Iraq.

AK Party's popularity persisting: Public support for the ruling AK Party remains strong, according to a public opinion survey conducted by the private polling company ANAR, "Yeni Safak" reports. In response to a question about which party they would support in the March 28 municipal elections, those surveyed responded as follows: AKP 33.2 percent, CHP 10.3, Genc Party 5.5, MHP 3.5, DYP 3.4, DEHAP 3.1, ANAP 1.4, Undecided 29.0

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Cyprus

"No Surprise in Iraq"

Zafer Atay wrote in the economic-political Dunya (2/11): "It was clear from the very beginning that the Kurds, who constitute a minority among the Iraqi population, pose a potential threat unless they are kept under control. The Iraqi Kurds are after a privileged form of autonomy, something very close to independence. They also want to control the natural resources of Iraq. Their efforts in drafting a constitution and establishing borders clearly indicate the fact that a civil war remains a potential threat for Iraq. . The Iraqi Kurds have so far worked successfully toward achieving their goals, and they haven't been seriously opposed by the US either. . The recent suicide bombing in Erbil suggests an emerging conflict between Kurds and Arabs in Iraq. This type of terrorist attack is very Arab in nature, and some have interpreted the Erbil incident as the beginning of a civil war. . The US remains the real authority in Iraq, and it is the US responsibility to stop its Kurdish allies from going further. Otherwise, an Arab-Kurd war is imminent in Iraq."

"Is Denktas Able to Stop This Process?"

Mehmed Ali Birand observed in the mass appeal Posta (2/11): "We are so fully concentrated on what Denktas might do that we never say anything about the stance of Greek Cypriot leader Papadopoulos. Yet the real problem might arise from the Greek Cypriot side. It has been well known for a long time that the Greek Cypriots are uncomfortable with the Annan plan. Just at a time when they believed they could rule Cyprus as they wanted, and thought they could dominate the Turkish Cypriot side without sacrificing too much, they have been forced to face this uncomfortable situation. . The Greek Cypriots with their \$18,000 annual per capita income, will have to share the wealth with the Turks. Moreover, they will lose their legal right to rule over the Turkish part of the island. . An eight-week marathon is beginning, and it will be full of daily surprises and mishaps. It may end before it even begins, but the atmosphere here shows that Washington and Brussels do not want to lose this chance to solve the problem."

EDELMAN